

HOUSE No. 603

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kathi-Anne Reinstein

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to create a silver alert program to protect seniors.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Kathi-Anne Reinstein	16th Suffolk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO CREATE A SILVER ALERT PROGRAM TO PROTECT SENIORS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 22 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following
2 section:— Section 21. There is hereby created the silver alert community response system. The
3 system shall be used in alerting designated Massachusetts communities in cases involving
4 missing and endangered older adults. (a). The silver alert community response system shall: Be
5 used when an adult with serious memory impairment such as Alzheimer’s disease or other
6 dementia is appropriately reported to any police department in Massachusetts as a missing
7 person.

8 1. Direct and focus law enforcement and other key response resources in a cost-effective way in a
9 geographic area consistent with the missing person’s “Point Last Known” and in accordance with the
10 best available research data.

11 (b). The executive office of public safety, in conjunction with the municipal police training committee
12 shall develop and implement the silver alert system in consultation with representatives of the executive
13 office of elder affairs, attorney general’s office, Massachusetts emergency management agency, state
14 police, chiefs of police association, county sheriff’s departments and district attorney’s offices,
15 department of conservation and recreation (rangers), and Massachusetts/New Hampshire chapter of the
16 national Alzheimer’s association.

17 (c). All first responders, 911 operators and any other appropriate personnel shall be trained on the silver
18 alert system application and protocols; re-training will be included in yearly in-service trainings for these
19 personnel; training will include information about older drivers whose memory impairments may put
20 them at high risk for crashes or becoming lost while driving.

21 (d). The executive office of public safety shall develop a plan to ensure that the Silver Alert system will
22 include use of a localized reverse 911 emergency phone system.

23 (e). The silver alert system shall coordinate and be interoperable with the national MedicAlert®+Safe
24 Return Program® in use by the Alzheimer’s association.